

REMARKS

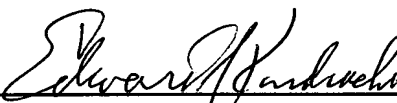
This Preliminary Amendment is filed to correct informalities in the specification, claims and abstract resulting from a literal translation of the German text.

Early action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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The following are the original claims marked up to show the changes with underlining and bracketing:

1 1. (Amended) A gasket comprising at least one metal layer having at
2 least one through-hole and at least one metal ring welded thereto, said at least
3 one metal ring being arranged around said at least one through-hole, [wherein] a
4 welding bead, said at least one metal layer and said at least one metal ring [are]
5 being welded to each other along a welding bead, said welding bead [keeping]
6 maintaining said at least one metal layer and said at least one metal ring in a
7 spaced-apart relationship [to each other].

1 2. (amended) The gasket according to claim 1, wherein said at least one
2 metal layer and said at least one metal ring are [kept in a spaced-apart
3 relationship] spaced from each other by a distance which is constant around said
4 at least one through-hole.

1 3. (amended) The gasket according to claim 1, wherein said at least one
2 layer and said at least one metal ring are [kept in a spaced-apart relationship]
3 spaced from each other by a distance which varies around said at least one
4 through-hole

1 4. The gasket according to claim 1, wherein said welding bead is
2 compressible.

1 5. The gasket according to claim 1 wherein said at least one metal layer is
2 made of a material selected from the list of aluminum, sheet steel, stainless steel,
3 spring steel and carbon steel.

1 6. The gasket according to claim 1, wherein said at least one metal ring is
2 made of a material selected from the list of copper, bronze, aluminum, sheet
3 steel, stainless steel, spring steel and carbon steel.

1 7. The gasket according to claim 1, wherein said welding bead extends
2 continuously around said at least one through-hole.

1 8. (amended) [The gasket according to claim 1, wherein said at least one
2 metal layer comprises at least one sealing bead] A gasket comprising at least
3 one metal layer having at least one through-hole and at least one metal ring
4 welded thereto, said at least one metal ring being arranged around said at least
5 one through-hole, a welding bead, said at least one metal layer and said at least
6 one metal ring being welded to each other along a welding bead, said welding
7 bead maintaining said at least one metal layer and said at least one metal ring in
8 a spaced-apart relationship and said at least one metal layer comprising at least
9 one sealing bead.

1 9. (amended) The gasket according to claim 8, wherein said sealing
2 bead [is arranged] extends around said at least one metal ring.

1 10. The gasket according to claim 9, wherein a further metal ring is
2 arranged around the sealing bead.

1 11. (amended) The gasket according to claim 8, wherein said at least one
2 metal ring [is arranged] extends around the sealing bead.

1 12. (amended) The gasket according to claim 8, wherein said welding
2 bead [is arranged] extends within the sealing bead.

1 13. (amended) The gasket according to claim 1, wherein the gasket
2 comprises two adjacent metal layers [with] having sealing beads located in each
3 metal layer and arranged opposite with respect to each other.

1 14. (amended) The gasket according to claim 1, wherein the gasket
2 comprises two adjacent metal layers [with] having sealing beads located in each
3 metal layer and arranged offset with respect to each other.

1 15. The gasket according to claim 1, wherein the gasket comprises two
2 metal layers, at least one of which has an indentation or cranking for
3 symmetrically aligning the metal ring.

1 16. (amended) A method for manufacturing a gasket having at least
 2 one metal layer, and at least one metal ring, said metal layer having at least
 3 one through hole comprising generating a welding bead in [at least one of a]
 4 one of said metal layer and said metal ring and generating a welding joint
 5 between the metal layer and the metal ring by projection welding.

1 17. (amended) The method according to claim 16, [wherein]
 2 comprising generating the welding bead [is generated] with a shape [before
 3 the welding process] selected from the list of U-shaped, V-shaped, Ω -shaped
 4 and trapezoidal cross section.

1 18. (amended) The method according to claim 16, [wherein]
 2 comprising generating the welding bead [is generated] in the metal layer and
 3 [during generating the welding bead in the metal layer] generating a sealing
 4 bead [is generated] in the metal layer during the generational welding bead in
 5 the metal layer.

1 19. (amended) The method according claim 16, [wherein] comprising
 2 discharging a capacitance to generate a welding current for generating the
 3 projection welding joint [is provided by discharging a capacitance].

1 20. (amended) The method according to claim 16, [wherein during
 2 generating the welding joint, at least] comprising arranging at least one
 3 deformation limiter [is arranged] within the welding bead during generation of
 4 the welding joint.

1 21. (amended) The method according to claim 16, [wherein during
2 generating the welding joint, at least] comprising arranging at least one
3 abutment element [is arranged] outside the welding bead during generation of
4 the welding joint.

An Abstract showing the changes using brackets and underlining follows:

Abstract

The invention refers to a gasket (1), the gasket having at least one metal layer (3) and at least one metal ring (5) welded thereto, the metal layer (3) having at least one through-hole (4) and the metal ring (5) being arranged around the through-hole (4). The metal layer (3) and the metal ring (5) are welded to each other along a welding bead (7) which keeps the metal layer (3) and the metal ring (5) in a spaced apart relationship to one another. The gasket (1) has welding joints which are stable for a long time, and thus a high sealing capacity.

[Figure 3 should accompany the abstract.]